

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## UNITED STATES OFFERS SUPPORT TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN INDONESIA

At least 3,500 dead after 6.2-magnitude quake strikes Java's central region

By Melody Merin  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush, speaking on behalf of the American people, expressed his "deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake in Indonesia" on May 27.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Indonesian people," said Bush in a May 27 statement. He added that the United States, "through financial and material support," will work with the authorities in Indonesia in that country's recovery efforts.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice echoed his sentiments, "We stand with the people and government of Indonesia at this difficult time." She noted that "several U.S. Agency for International Development personnel" are in the affected region to "[determine] how ... assistance can best be targeted."

The secretary also said an emergency allocation of \$500,000 for assistance to earthquake victims has been authorized by President Bush and noted that U.S. Agency for International Development personnel already are in Yogyakarta and the surrounding area "determining how this assistance can best be targeted."

## YOGYAKARTA

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck at 5:54 a.m. local time near the city of Yogyakarta, which is 400 kilometers east of the Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. The densely populated city is a popular tourist attraction. Estimates released late local time on May 28 indicate at least 3,500 people are dead and as many as 200,000 are displaced from their homes. Bantul, a town in the Yogyakarta province, seems to have been hit hardest, with at least 2,000 of its residents reported to have perished and 80 percent of its homes flattened.

The earthquake also might have triggered additional seismic activity in Mount Merapi, a nearby volcano considered to be the most dangerous of Indonesia's 129 active volcanoes. Scientists in the region are continuing to monitor the volcano. The U.S. Geological Survey May 28 reported two additional earthquakes in the region -- one east of Indonesia and the other off the coast of Papua New Guinea. No deaths have been reported in connection with these earthquakes.

## ASSISTANCE ON THE WAY

The U.S. government, through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is providing emergency relief supplies worth \$2.5 million to the stricken area, according to an announcement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta.

Supplies include enough medical kits to serve the needs of 20,000 people for three months, 150 rolls of plastic sheeting, 10,000 jerricans and 5,000 hygiene kits. In addition, USAID's Environmental Services Program is assessing water supply and sanitation facilities at hospitals and evacuation camps. The Red Cross has mobilized "an initial \$100,000 from the American Red Cross International Response Fund," according to its Web site. Meanwhile, UNICEF has offered to send 9,000 tarpaulins, 2,000 tents, school supplies and health and hygiene kits.

Other countries and international agencies also are dispatching help: Malaysia sent a six-member search team, doctors and medical supplies; the European Union released up to \$3.8 million in emergency aid; the Rome-based World Food Programme has dispatched a plane carrying 2 tons of medicine as well as eight truckloads of fortified noodles and biscuits; and Italy is sending a plane with 27 tons of tents, blankets, water purifiers, electric generators and other aid to the earthquake-ravished region.

## U.N. REFORMS RESISTED BY MANY WHO PAY LITTLE IN U.N. DUES

U.S. envoy Bolton tells Senate panel 120 nations oppose reform

By David Anthony Denny  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Needed management reforms in the United Nations are being resisted by more than 120 U.N. members who, collectively, provide relatively little budget support to the institution, Ambassador John Bolton says.

The U.S. representative to the United Nations testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee May 25 on U.N. reform. Reform efforts, he said, have not yet proven very successful.

The United States, Bolton said, is one of a group of about 50 nations that actively seeks management reform. This group contributes more than 86.7 percent of the entire U.N. budget. It is opposed by more than 120 nations who provide only about 12 percent of the budget, he said. Included in this latter group are many members of the Group of 77 (G-77), whom Bolton said "are resisting efforts by the Secretariat to reform and streamline basic managerial structures and practices."

The G-77 describes itself as "the largest Third World coalition in the United Nations." Its stated goal is to give the developing world the ability to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the U.N. system.

Bolton told the committee that the G-77 wrote to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan the week of May 15 "chastising him for issuing reports to the public on his proposals for some reforms he feels [are] necessary." The U.S. view, in contrast, is that the U.N. Charter designates the secretary-general as the agency's chief administrative officer, and all member states should support his fulfillment of that responsibility.

Nevertheless, Bolton cited some small successes in the reform effort. Most important was the successful effort in December 2005 to cap spending on the U.N.'s current two-year budget, given lack of progress on the reform effort. He said the spending cap should be reached in

July, and that should allow an evaluation of “progress to date and to determine whether, and in what form, further spending should be authorized.”

The creation of a U.N. Peacebuilding Commission and Support Office is another success, though a modest one, Bolton said. The United States has agreed that this entity should be funded with existing resources. Consequently, member states created an office that Bolton said comprises “predominately reprogrammed positions.” Even the few newly created positions, he said, are being funded out of the current budget and therefore require no additional financing.

The full text of Bolton’s opening statement is available on the State Department Web site:  
<http://www.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/66904.htm>

More information on the Group of 77 is available on its Web site:  
<http://www.g77.org/>

#### U.S. CONDEMNS DECISION TO EXTEND DETENTION OF BURMESE DISSIDENT

Urges Burma’s military regime to move toward democracy, national reconciliation

Washington -- The United States on May 27 again condemned the decision of Burma’s ruling military regime to extend the detention of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, according to a statement released by the State Department.

The department described the action as “yet another sign of the regime’s intransigence and brutal repression.” Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), is currently under house arrest under the orders of the junta calling itself the State Peace and Development Council. NLD won national elections in 1990, but the military regime prevented it from taking leadership of the country.

The statement urges Burma’s rulers to take steps to move the country toward democracy and national reconciliation. For more information about U.S. policy toward Burma, see U.S. Support for Democracy in Burma:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east\\_asia\\_pacific/burma.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/burma.html)

#### EDUCATION USA ADVISERS CAN HELP FOREIGN STUDENTS NAVIGATE CHOICES

Possibility for “endless growth” abound in U.S. higher education, advisers say

By Anthony Kujawa  
 Washington File Staff Writer

Montreal -- U.S. colleges and universities remain the premier destination for the world’s students and a dedicated global network of more than 600 EducationUSA advisers works to aid prospective students in selecting suitable schools that meet their needs, the advisers say.

“Don’t be afraid of the unknown. We are here to lend you a hand and guide you through the process [of applying to a U.S. school],” says Maria H. Salman, an EducationUSA adviser in Ecuador, reflecting on the message she and the 80 State Department-affiliated experts bring to the May 23-26 meeting in Montreal of NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

NAFSA is a professional organization that promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. More than 7,300 educators, administrators and government officials from 95 countries attended the 2006 conference.

In a Washington File interview before the opening of the conference, Mary Thompson-Jones, a branch chief of the State Department’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), outlined two U.S. initiatives -- the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) and the U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education -- through which the U.S. government is working with schools to increase the flow of American students to other countries and of foreign students to the United States.

President Bush unveiled the National Security Language Initiative in January, a plan to increase dramatically the number of Americans mastering critical-need foreign languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Farsi and Russian. U.S. higher-education institutions are partnering with schools in other countries through the NSLI to provide language training for Americans overseas.

At the U.S. university presidents summit on January 5, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States has “never been more eager” to welcome foreign students and to send more Americans to study abroad.

The main thrust of the State Department presence at the 2006 NAFSA conference, according Thompson-Jones, are the 80 EducationUSA advisers who actively are promoting the services they offer to prospective students interested in studying in the United States and developing contacts with higher education admissions officials to increase the flow of foreign students to the United States.

Thompson-Jones' office supports the network of 450 EducationUSA advising centers in 170 countries. The centers offer accurate, comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information on education opportunities in the United States, assisting roughly 25 million prospective students each year, either in person, by telephone, through e-mail or on the Internet.

In one conference session, Vicktar Khotsim, an EducationUSA adviser from Belarus, described a new multilingual "virtual consulting" service launched by EducationUSA advisers to respond to questions from prospective students and their parents about studying in the United States in their native language.

The Web site, called the EducationUSA Virtual Consulting Office (VCO), includes general information on higher education in the United States, an online question-and-answer service and a discussion forum. The service is available in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish and English versions. For additional information, see the EducationUSA Virtual Consulting Office Web Site.

In a separate session, Rebecca Zeigler Mano, an EducationUSA adviser based in Zimbabwe, provided information on the innovative United States Achievers Program (USAP), which has enabled more than 100 "economically disadvantaged" students from 13 countries to study at top U.S. colleges and universities since 1999. Asked about lingering perceptions that the United States does not welcome foreign students or that it is impossible to obtain a student visa, Thompson-Jones said, "We are working exhaustively and tirelessly to convince people of the contrary."

Sardar Haider Hyat Khan, an EducationUSA adviser based in Islamabad, Pakistan, said U.S. Embassy officials routinely participate in outreach activities for prospective students, answering all questions students might have on the visa process.

"Our EducationUSA advisers walk [prospective students] through the whole process. They demystify the visa process, they explain testing, they help applicants

register online for the various tests that they need, they help them interpret their scores, they help them apply for a U.S. university. ... help make sure the admissions office at the U.S. university or college has the best possible picture of the foreign student applicant ... so they can make an accurate and well-informed admission decision," Thompson-Jones said.

"If you knock on the door, the door will open," Andriy Hatalyak, an EducationUSA adviser from Ukraine told the Washington File.

"Experiencing education in the United States is allowing yourself the possibility for endless growth -- professionally, as well as personally. Dare to take the challenge, and conquer new horizons," adds Maya Dafinova, an adviser from Chile.

Asked for her message to prospective students interested in studying in the United States, Thompson-Jones replied: "I know that every student has many options and that it is no longer a question of the best, but a question of the best fit. I would urge each prospective student to investigate as much and fully as possible to ensure that the institution is a good fit and that the program is a good fit for them."

Additional information on studying in the United States is available from an EducationUSA advising center: <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers/> or on the State Department's EducationUSA Web site: <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/index.htm>

**Pleases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

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